

CLAIM 12 RECITES THE LIMITATION 'SAID PISTON EXTENSION' IN LINE 13. THERE IS INSUFFICIENT ANTECEDENT BASIS FOR THIS LIMITATION IN THE CLAIM.

CLAIM 12 RECITES THE LIMITATION 'SAID END CLOSURE' IN LINE 13. THERE IS INSUFFICIENT ANTECEDENT BASIS FOR THIS LIMITATION IN THE CLAIM.

CLAIM 18 RECITES THE LIMITATION 'SAID PISTON EXTENSION' IN LINE 15. THERE IS INSUFFICIENT ANTECEDENT BASIS FOR THIS LIMITATION IN THE CLAIM.

CLAIM 17 RECITES THE LIMITATION 'SAID RECTIFIER' IN LINE 9. THERE IS INSUFFICIENT ANTECEDENT BASIS FOR THIS LIMITATION IN THE CLAIM.

CLAIM 19 RECITES THE LIMITATION 'SAID PISTON EXTENSION' IN LINES 18 TO 19. THERE IS INSUFFICIENT ANTECEDENT BASIS FOR THIS LIMITATION IN THE CLAIM."

In the amendment made supra, the examiner's three rejections of claim 12 have been addressed. The spring is no longer cited as an element having a previous reference, but is now a new element. Also, claim 12, as amended supra, now depends from claim 6. The latter claim introduces the piston extension and it depends from claim 5 which introduces the end closure.

Claim 17, as amended supra, now depends from claim 16 which introduces the rectifier.

Claim 18, as amended supra, now depends from claim 6 which introduces the piston extension.

Similarly, claim 19, as amended supra, now depends from claim 6 which introduces the piston extension.

Clarity has also been improved in claim 11, as amended supra.

It is therefore believed that antecedent basis has been provided for the cited elements in claims 12, 17, 18 and 19.

Accordingly, the examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw his rejection of claims 12, 17, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 112.

In regard to claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), the examiner stated:

"CLAIM 20 IS REJECTED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(b) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY NOLTNER (DE2355728).

REFERRING TO CLAIM 20, LI DISCLOSES A PNEUMATICALLY DRIVEN ELECTRIC POWER GENERATOR (FIGURE 1) COMPRISING: A FIRST CYLINDER (7) HAVING A FIRST END CONNECTABLE THROUGH A FIRST INLET FLOWPATH (11 AND 10) TO AN AIR SUPPLY PASSAGE, A SECOND END OF SAID FIRST CYLINDER BEING OPEN (20 AND 21); A SECOND CYLINDER (7&) HAVING A FIRST END CONNECTABLE THROUGH A SECOND INLET FLOWPATH TO SAID AIR SUPPLY PASSAGE, A SECOND END OF SAID SECOND CYLINDER BEING OPEN (20 AND 21); A PISTON HAVING A MAGNETIC MOMENT ASSOCIATED THEREWITH (2 AND 3), SAID PISTON HAVING A FIRST END PORTION (2) AND A SECOND END PORTION (3), SAID PISTON BEING POSITIONABLE IN A FIRST LOCATION WHEREIN SAID FIRST END PORTION OF SAID PISTON IS DISPOSED WITHIN SAID FIRST CYLINDER AND SAID SECOND END PORTION OF SAID PISTON IS DISPOSED OUTSIDE OF SAID SECOND CYLINDER, SAID PISTON FURTHER BEING POSITIONABLE IN A SECOND LOCATION WHEREIN SAID SECOND END PORTION OF SAID PISTON IS DISPOSED WITHIN SAID SECOND CYLINDER AND SAID FIRST PORTION OF SAID PISTON IS OUTSIDE OF SAID FIRST CYLINDER; SO THAT WHEN SAID PISTON IS DISPOSED IN SAID FIRST POSITION, AIR PRESSURE RECEIVED IN SAID FIRST CYLINDER THROUGH SAID FIRST INLET FLOWPATH DRIVES SAID PISTON TOWARD SAID SECOND POSITION, WHEREUPON SAID FIRST CYLINDER EXHAUSTS, AND WHEN SAID PISTON IS DISPOSED IN SAID SECOND POSITION, AIR PRESSURE RECEIVED IN SAID SECOND CYLINDER THROUGH SAID SECOND INLET FLOWPATH DRIVES SAID PISTON TOWARD SAID FIRST POSITION, WHEREUPON SAID SECOND CYLINDER EXHAUSTS, SO THAT SAID PISTON OSCILLATES; AND AT LEAST ONE ELECTRIC COIL (5) PLACED TO ENCLOSE CHANGING MAGNETIC FLUX CAUSED BY SAID MAGNETIC MOMENT ASSOCIATED WITH SAID PISTON WHEREBY AN EMF IS GENERATED IN

SAID ELECTRIC COIL, SO THAT AN EXTERNAL CIRCUIT CONNECTED TO SAID ELECTRIC COIL
RECEIVES ELECTRIC POWER FROM SAID ELECTRIC COIL."

The examiner's action ambiguously referenced both Noltner and Li. The identifying numerals in the action are believed to apply to Noltner, not Li. Also, Li issued after the present application was filed. Hence, it is believed that Noltner, not Li is the basis of the examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

For translation of the German terms, reference is made to *German-English Science Dictionary* by Louis De Vries, Second Edition.

The Noltner invention appears to be an internal combustion engine having a magnetic piston. The examiner interpreted (10) and (11) as being a first inlet flowpath. According to De Vries, Auslassventil (10) is an exhaust valve, and Einlassventil (11) is an inlet valve. Noltner provides no teaching concerning a camshaft or other means for opening and closing these valves. The examiner interpreted (20) and (21) as being an open second end of the first cylinder. According to De Vries, these are inlet and outlet for a refrigerant, respectfully. Probably, "coolant" would be a better translation than "refrigerant".

Claim 20 of the present invention is believed to describe a device which is quite distinct from Noltner. Each cylinder exhausts when its piston moves out of it. No separate exhaust valve is required. Likewise, the present invention has no inlet valve, and no passages for coolant.

Based on the preceding discussion, it is believed that Claim 20 is not anticipated by Noltner, and the examiner is respectfully

requested to withdraw his rejection of claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

In regard to claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), the examiner stated:

"CLAIMS 1, 5 TO 7, 11 TO 12 AND 18 TO 19 ARE REJECTED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(e) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY LI (U.S. PAT. No. 5,945,749).

REFERRING TO CLAIM 1, LI DISCLOSES A PNEUMATICALLY DRIVEN ELECTRIC POWER GENERATOR (FIGURE 1) COMPRISING: A CYLINDER HAVING A FIRST END (16) CONNECTABLE THROUGH AN INLET FLOWPATH (13) TO AN AIR SUPPLY PASSAGE CONTAINING AIR AT A POSITIVE PRESSURE, A SECOND END OF SAID CYLINDER (18) BEING OPEN; A PISTON (1) HAVING A MAGNETIC MOMENT ASSOCIATED THEREWITH, SAID PISTON BEING POSITIONABLE IN A FIRST LOCATION WHEREIN AT LEAST A FIRST PORTION OF SAID PISTON IS DISPOSED WITHIN SAID CYLINDER; SEALING MEANS (3 AND 5) DISPOSED ON AT LEAST ONE OF AN OUTER SURFACE OF SAID FIRST PORTION OF SAID PISTON AND AN INNER SURFACE OF SAID CYLINDER TO PREVENT LOSS OF AIR BETWEEN SAID PISTON AND SAID CYLINDER AND PERMIT AIR PRESSURE IN SAID CYLINDER TO INCREASE WHEN SAID FIRST PORTION OF SAID PISTON IS DISPOSED WITHIN SAID CYLINDER; SAID PISTON ALSO BEING POSITIONABLE IN A SECOND LOCATION WHEREIN SAID FIRST PORTION OF SAID PISTON IS OUTSIDE OF SAID CYLINDER SO THAT CLEARANCE IS PROVIDED BETWEEN SAID PISTON AND SAID CYLINDER SO THAT AIR MAY EXHAUST FROM SAID CYLINDER; MEANS (4 AND 6) ENGAGING SAID PISTON FOR BIASING SAID PISTON FROM SAID SECOND POSITION TOWARD SAID FIRST POSITION SO THAT AFTER SAID CYLINDER HAS SUBSTANTIALLY EXHAUSTED, SAID PISTON MOVES TO SAID FIRST POSITION, WHEREBY SAID PISTON OSCILLATES, MOVING BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN SAID FIRST POSITION AND SAID SECOND POSITION, DRIVEN BY AIR SUPPLIED THROUGH SUCH AIR SUPPLY PASSAGE TO SAID CYLINDER; AND AT LEAST ONE ELECTRIC COIL (7) PLACED TO ENCLOSE CHANGING MAGNETIC FLUX CAUSED BY SAID MAGNETIC MOMENT ASSOCIATED WITH SAID PISTON WHEREBY AN EMF IS GENERATED IN SAID ELECTRIC COIL, SO THAT AN EXTERNAL CIRCUIT CONNECTED TO SAID ELECTRIC COIL RECEIVES ELECTRIC POWER FROM SAID ELECTRIC COIL.

REFERRING TO CLAIM 5, LI DISCLOSES A CYLINDER EXTENSION (16 AND 18) AT LEAST ONE OF FORMED INTEGRALLY WITH AND ATTACHED TO SAID CYLINDER, SAID CYLINDER EXTENSION HAVING AN INNER SURFACE HAVING A TRANSVERSE DIMENSION GREATER THAN A TRANSVERSE DIMENSION OF SAID CYLINDER, SAID CYLINDER EXTENSION HAVING AN END CLOSURE; AND AN EXHAUST PASSAGE (13 AND 15) CONNECTED TO AT LEAST ONE OF SAID CYLINDER EXTENSION AND SAID END CLOSURE.

REFERRING TO CLAIM 6, LI DISCLOSES THAT SAID PISTON (1) FURTHER INCLUDES A PISTON EXTENSION (14 AND 22) AT LEAST ONE OF FORMED INTEGRALLY WITH AND ATTACHED TO SAID PISTON, AT LEAST A PORTION OF SAID PISTON EXTENSION CONTACTING AT LEAST A PORTION OF SAID CYLINDER EXTENSION TO PROVIDE POSITIONAL CONSTRAINT TO SAID PISTON.

REFERRING TO CLAIM 7, LI DISCLOSES THAT SAID PORTION OF SAID PISTON EXTENSION CONTACTING AT LEAST A PORTION OF SAID CYLINDER EXTENSION IS AN OUTER SURFACE OF SAID PISTON EXTENSION AND SAID PORTION OF SAID CYLINDER EXTENSION IS AN INNER SURFACE OF SAID CYLINDER EXTENSION.

REFERRING TO CLAIM 11, LI DISCLOSES THAT SAID MEANS DISPOSED ON SAID PNEUMATICALLY DRIVEN ELECTRIC POWER GENERATOR FOR BIASING THAT SAID PISTON FROM SAID SECOND POSITION TO SAID FIRST POSITION IS A SPRING (4 AND 6).

REFERRING TO CLAIM 12, LI DISCLOSES THAT SAID SPRING IS A COMPRESSION SPRING DISPOSED BETWEEN SAID PISTON EXTENSION AND SAID END CLOSURE.

REFERRING TO CLAIM 18 AND 19, LI DISCLOSES THAT SAID MAGNETIC MOMENT ASSOCIATED WITH SAID PISTON IS PROVIDED BY A MAGNET ATTACHED TO AT LEAST ONE SAID PISTON AND SAID PISTON EXTENSION (1)."

Agent for the applicant notes that Li does not have an essential feature of the present invention. In the present invention, when the piston is in its first location, a sealing means prevents air loss between the piston and the cylinder and when the piston is in its second location, clearance is provided

between the piston and the cylinder so that the cylinder exhausts.
In Li, the sealing means 3 and 5 always seal between the piston (1) and the housing member 9 or the covers 11 or 12. In Li, there is no location for the piston for which a gap is provided which permits the cylinder to exhaust.

The feature of having the piston seal when it is in the first location, and then not seal in the second location is believed to be novel. It is believed, therefore, that Li does not anticipate claim 1 of the present invention. The examiner, therefore, is respectfully requested to withdraw his rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) due to Li.

Since claims 5, 7, 11, 12, 18 and 19 all depend from claim 1, it is believed that these claims, likewise, are not anticipated by Li. The examiner, therefore, is respectfully requested to withdraw his rejection of claims 5, 7, 11, 12, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) due to Li.

In regard to claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103, the examiner stated: "CLAIMS 2 IS REJECTED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(A) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER LI IN VIEW OF CARROL (U.S. PAT. NO. 5,350,222).

LI DISCLOSES A PNEUMATICALLY DRIVEN ELECTRIC POWER GENERATOR AS DESCRIBED ON ITEM 2 ABOVE. HOWEVER, LI DOES NOT DISCLOSE THAT SAID SEALING MEANS IS AN O-RING IN A GROOVE FORMED ON SAID OUTER SURFACE OF SAID FIRST PORTION OF SAID PISTON.

CARROL DISCLOSES THAT SAID SEALING MEANS IS AN O-RING (79 AND 80) IN A GROOVE FORMED ON SAID OUTER SURFACE OF SAID FIRST PORTION OF SAID PISTON FOR THE PURPOSE OF AVOIDING ESCAPE OF AIR BETWEEN THE PISTON AND THE CYLINDER.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN OBVIOUS AT THE TIME THE INVENTION WAS MADE TO MODIFY THE PNEUMATICALLY DRIVEN ELECTRIC POWER GENERATOR OF LI AND PROVIDE IT WITH O-RING SEALING MEANS IN A GROOVE FORMED ON SAID OUTER SURFACE OF SAID FIRST PORTION OF SAID PISTON FOR THE PURPOSE OF AVOIDING AIR TO ESCAPE BETWEEN THE PISTON AND THE CYLINDER PRODUCING BETTER FUNCTIONING OF THE GENERATOR.

CLAIM 3 IS REJECTED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103 (A) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER LI IN VIEW OF FEIGEL ET AL. (U.S. PAT. No. 5,826,952).

LI DISCLOSES A PNEUMATICALLY DRIVEN ELECTRIC POWER GENERATOR AS DESCRIBED ON ITEM 2 ABOVE. HOWEVER, LI DOES NOT DISCLOSE THAT SAID INLET FLOWPATH INCLUDES AN AIR FILTER FOR EXCLUDING FOREIGN MATERIAL FROM SAID CYLINDER.

FEIGEL ET AL. DISCLOSE THAT SAID INLET FLOWPATH INCLUDES AN AIR FILTER (62) TO EXCLUDE FOREIGN MATERIAL FROM SAID CYLINDER FOR THE PURPOSE OF PREVENT THE INGRESS OF DIRT PARTICLES.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN OBVIOUS AT THE TIME THE INVENTION WAS MADE TO MODIFY THE PNEUMATICALLY DRIVEN ELECTRIC POWER GENERATOR OF LI AND PROVIDE IT WITH AN INLET FLOWPATH INCLUDING AN AIR FILTER FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXCLUDING FOREIGN MATERIAL FROM SAID CYLINDER.

CLAIM 4 IS REJECTED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103 (A) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER LI IN VIEW OF NOLTNER.

LI DISCLOSES A PNEUMATICALLY DRIVEN ELECTRIC POWER GENERATOR AS DESCRIBED ON ITEM 2 ABOVE. HOWEVER, LI DOES NOT DISCLOSE THAT SAID INLET FLOWPATH INCLUDES A CHOKE TO CONTROL AN IMPEDANCE OF SAID INLET FLOWPATH.

NOLTNER DISCLOSES THAT SAID INLET FLOWPATH INCLUDES A CHOKE (11 AND 10) FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTROLLING AN IMPEDANCE OF SAID INLET FLOWPATH.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN OBVIOUS AT THE TIME THE INVENTION WAS MADE TO MODIFY THE PNEUMATICALLY DRIVEN ELECTRIC POWER GENERATOR OF LI AND PROVIDE IT WITH AN INLET

FLOWPATH INCLUDING A CHOKE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTROLLING AN IMPEDANCE OF SAID INLET FLOWPATH.

CLAIM 8 IS REJECTED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(A) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER LI IN VIEW OF DUNNE ET AL. (U.S. PAT. No. 3,661,051).

LI DISCLOSES A PNEUMATICALLY DRIVEN ELECTRIC POWER GENERATOR AS DESCRIBED ON ITEM 2 ABOVE. HOWEVER, LI DOES NOT DISCLOSE THAT AT LEAST ONE OF SAID OUTER SURFACE OF SAID PISTON EXTENSION AND SAID INNER SURFACE OF SAID CYLINDER EXTENSION IS AT LEAST ONE OF MADE FROM AND COATED WITH A LOW FRICTION MATERIAL.

DUNNE ET AL. DISCLOSE THAT AT LEAST ONE OF SAID OUTER SURFACE OF SAID PISTON EXTENSION AND SAID INNER SURFACE OF SAID CYLINDER EXTENSION IS AT LEAST ONE OF MADE FROM AND COATED WITH A LOW FRICTION MATERIAL (COLUMN 4, LINES 46 TO 57) FOR THE PURPOSE OF REDUCING WEAR ON THE PISTONS.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN OBVIOUS AT THE TIME THE INVENTION WAS MADE TO MODIFY THE PNEUMATICALLY DRIVEN ELECTRIC POWER GENERATOR AND PROVIDE IT WITH AT LEAST ONE OF SAID OUTER SURFACE OF SAID PISTON EXTENSION AND SAID INNER SURFACE OF SAID CYLINDER EXTENSION MADE FROM AND COATED WITH A LOW FRICTION MATERIAL AS DISCLOSED BY DUNNE ET AL. FOR THE PURPOSE OF REDUCING THE WEAR ON THE PISTONS SURFACE DURING OPERATION.

CLAIM 13 TO 17 ARE REJECTED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(A) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER LI IN VIEW OF BALL ET AL. (U.S. PAT. No. 5,890,460).

LI DISCLOSES A PNEUMATICALLY DRIVEN ELECTRIC POWER GENERATOR AS DESCRIBED ON ITEM 2 ABOVE. HOWEVER, LI DOES NOT DISCLOSE THAT SAID EXHAUST PASSAGE INCLUDES A MUFFLER TO REDUCE NOISE RELEASED FROM SAID GENERATOR.

BALL ET AL. DISCLOSE THAT SAID EXHAUST PASSAGE INCLUDES A MUFFLER TO REDUCE NOISE RELEASED FROM SAID GENERATOR (1178) FOR THE PURPOSE OF REDUCING NOISE EMITTED BY THE ENGINE AND THE GENERATOR.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN OBVIOUS AT THE TIME THE INVENTION WAS MADE TO MODIFY THE PNEUMATICALLY DRIVEN ELECTRIC POWER GENERATOR OF LI AND PROVIDE IT WITH AN SAID EXHAUST PASSAGE INCLUDING A MUFFLER FOR THE PURPOSE OF REDUCING NOISE RELEASED FROM SAID GENERATOR.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN OBVIOUS TO ONE HAVING ORDINARY SKILL IN THE ART AT THE TIME THE INVENTION WAS MADE TO CONNECT THE ELECTRIC COIL TO A FULL BRIDGE RECTIFIER SINCE IT WAS KNOWN IN THE ART THAT THE FULL BRIDGE RECTIFIER ARE USED TO SUPPLY DC ELECTRIC POWER WHENEVER A NET FLUX THROUGH THE COILS IS CHANGING.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN OBVIOUS TO ONE HAVING ORDINARY SKILL IN THE ART AT THE TIME THE INVENTION WAS MADE TO SUBSTITUTE THE ELECTRIC ACTUATED SHUTOFF VALVE, WITH THE PISTON TYPE CONTROL VALVE DISCLOSE BY LI SINCE THE EXAMINER TAKES OFFICIAL NOTICE OF THE EQUIVALENCE OF THE ELECTRIC ACTUATED SHUTOFF VALVE AND THE PISTON TYPE CONTROL VALVE FOR THEIR USE IN THE ELECTRIC GENERATOR STRUCTURE ART AND THE SELECTION OF ANY OF THESE KNOWN EQUIVALENTS TO PREVENT AIR FLOW THROUGH SAID GENERATOR WOULD BE WITHIN THE LEVEL OR ORDINARY SKILL IN THE ART.

CLAIM 21 IS REJECTED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(A) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER NOLTNER IN VIEW OF LI.

NOLTNER DISCLOSES A PNEUMATICALLY DRIVEN ELECTRIC POWER GENERATOR AS DESCRIBED ON ITEM 1 ABOVE. HOWEVER, NOLTNER DOES NOT DISCLOSE THAT SAID GENERATOR FURTHER INCLUDES A SPRING ENGAGING SAID PISTON TO BIAS SAID PISTON TOWARD ONE OF SAID FIRST POSITION AND SAID SECOND POSITION TO FACILITATE STARTING SAID GENERATOR WHEN AIR IS SUPPLIED THROUGH SAID FIRST AIR SUPPLY PASSAGE AND SAID SECOND AIR SUPPLY PASSAGE.

LI DISCLOSES THAT SAID GENERATOR FURTHER INCLUDES A SPRING (4 AND 6) ENGAGING SAID PISTON TO BIAS SAID PISTON TOWARD ONE OF SAID FIRST POSITION AND SAID SECOND POSITION TO FACILITATE STARTING SAID GENERATOR WHEN AIR IS SUPPLIED THROUGH SAID FIRST AIR SUPPLY PASSAGE AND SAID SECOND AIR SUPPLY PASSAGE FOR THE PURPOSE OF INDUCING THE OSCILLATION OF THE PISTON INSIDE THE CYLINDER.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN OBVIOUS AT THE TIME THE INVENTION WAS MADE TO MODIFY THE PNEUMATICALLY DRIVEN ELECTRIC POWER GENERATOR OF NOLTNER AND PROVIDE IT WITH A SPRING ENGAGING SAID PISTON TO BIAS SAID PISTON TOWARD ONE OF SAID FIRST POSITION AND SAID SECOND POSITION TO FACILITATE STARTING SAID GENERATOR WHEN AIR IS SUPPLIED THROUGH SAID FIRST AIR SUPPLY PASSAGE AND SAID SECOND AIR SUPPLY PASSAGE AS DISCLOSED BY LI FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING OSCILLATING MOVEMENTS TO THE PISTON."

Regarding claim 2, agent for the applicant notes that Li does not describe the generator of claim 2, nor the generator of claim 1 from which claim 2 depends. As discussed supra, claim 1 of the instant invention has the feature that the piston has a first location in which it seals against the cylinder to prevent air loss between the piston and the cylinder, and it has a second location in which clearance is provided between the piston and the cylinder so that air may exhaust from the cylinder. The configuration shown in Li, Figure 1 clearly does not have this feature.

In his action, the examiner did not cite Li, Figures 2 or 3. It is believed that the embodiment shown in these Figures also does not have the feature that there is a first location for the piston 33 in which it seals against the bushing 29, and a second location for piston 33 in which clearance is provided between the piston and the bushing. This feature is also not suggested by Carroll. The O-rings 79 and 80 always seal against bore 65. There is no location for stem 74 in which clearance is provided between stem 74 and bore 65.

It is believed, therefore, that neither Li, Carroll, nor any combination of the two would suggest the invention as described in either claim 1 or claim 2 of the instant invention. The examiner,

therefore, is respectfully requested to withdraw his rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103 due to the combination of Li and Carroll.

Likewise, claims 3, 4, 8, and 13-17 all depend from claim 1 and have all the limitations of claim 1. It is believed, therefore that these claims are neither taught nor suggested by Li in combination with Feigel, Nolter, Dunne or Ball. The examiner, therefore, is respectfully requested to withdraw his rejection of claims 3,4,8, and 13-17 under 35 U.S.C. 103.

The examiner wrote as follows concerning allowable subject matter. He stated:

"CLAIMS 9 AND 10 ARE OBJECTED TO AS BEING DEPENDENT UPON A REJECTED BASE CLAIM, BUT WOULD BE ALLOWABLE IF REWRITTEN IN INDEPENDENT FORM INCLUDING ALL OF THE LIMITATIONS OF THE BASE CLAIM AND ANY INTERVENING CLAIMS."

As a result of the foregoing discussion, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance. An early notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

In the event the examiner has further difficulties with the allowance of the application, he is invited to contact the undersigned agent for the applicants by telephone at (412) 380-0725, to resolve any remaining questions or issues by interview and/or Examiner's Amendment as to any matter that will expedite the completion of the prosecution of the application.

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